

IMPORTANT UPDATE

New Government and FOI

With the election of the Baillieu Coalition Government it is timely to consider what impact this will have on freedom of information in Victoria in the foreseeable future.

On 19 November 2009 Mr Baillieu published a media release which, in summary, promised to overhaul key aspects of freedom of information administration and decision making. He proposed the following if a Coalition Government was elected:

- The introduction of an independent Freedom of Information Commissioner to oversee FOI administration;
- The FOI Commissioner will be accountable to a joint parliamentary committee;
- The FOI Commissioner will assume responsibility for all internal reviews currently conducted by departmental staff;
- The FOI Commissioner will monitor compliance with the FOI Act;
- The FOI Commissioner will establish enforceable professional standards to be applied by all FOI Officers.

We will keep a keen eye out for any legislative or administrative changes and will be well placed to assist agencies with any changes to their activities and structures if and when those changes take place.

Dated: 1 December 2010

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Mick Batskos'.

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